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MODERN LANGUAGE NOTES.

Baltimore, February, 1895.

THE TWELFTH ANNUAL CONVENTION OF THE MODERN LANGUAGE ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA.

THE twelfth annual convention of the Modern Language Association of America was held in Philadelphia, at the University of Pennsylvania, December 27-29, 1894. The Association held four independent sessions, and with six other societies,—the American Oriental Society, the American Philological Association, the Society of Biblical Literature and Exegesis, the American Dialect Society, the Spelling Reform Association, and the Archaeological Institute of America,—it participated in three joint sessions. This is the first occasion on which the Modern Language Association has become a fraction of a larger philological unit; for the simultaneous meetings of the various societies held at Chicago in 1893 were an aggregate of integers. The program of the meetings at Philadelphia included both joint and simultaneous sessions. The common bond of union, in addition to that of closely related aims and studies, was the desire to pay tribute to the many-sided activity, and to do honor to the memory of William Dwight Whitney.

The seven societies met at twelve o'clock on Thursday, December 27, in the University Library, and listened to a brief address of welcome by the Acting Provost of the University of Pennsylvania, Mr. C. C. Harrison, who introduced the presiding officer of the first joint session, Professor Elliott, of the Johns Hopkins University, President of the Modern Language Association. Professor Elliott voiced the thanks of the Associations, and expressed the hope that the joint meetings might be indicative of "a renewed fraternal interest in all that concerns us as earnest co-workers in the special field of American letters, and in the vast cosmopolitan domain open to the furtherance and enlargement of science." He then introduced the eminent Shaksperian scholar, Horace Howard Fur-

ness, whose address was charming, both in felicitous quotation and in cordiality of welcome. "This building, this city, and our hearts, are yours. Enter, and enjoy your own."

The first independent session was called to order at three o'clock on Thursday afternoon. The report of the Secretary, which was already before the Association in printed form, was duly accepted; the report of the Treasurer was read, and was referred to an auditing committee; committees were also appointed to suggest a place for holding the next convention, and to nominate officers for the ensuing year. The first paper was read by Professor Hewett, of Cornell University, on "The Life and Works of Matthias de Vries." Professor Hewett gave a most interesting sketch of the career of the great Dutch scholar, of his life-work upon the large dictionary of the Dutch language, and of his successful efforts toward establishing a national spelling and a standard literary language for both the Northern and the Southern Netherlands. The discussion was opened by Dr. Vos, of the Johns Hopkins University, who compared de Vries to our own Professor Whitney. He dwelt upon the importance of the study of Dutch to students of Germanic philology and of German literature. Mr. de Haan, of the Johns Hopkins University, a former pupil of de Vries, recounted in a graphic manner personal recollections of the Dutch professor. He also insisted upon the importance of a knowledge of Dutch to students both of German and of English literature.

An admirably written paper was presented by Dr. Francke, of Harvard University, on "The relation of early German Romanticism to the Classic Ideal." Romanticism in its early stages, he said, was individualism run mad. He illustrated his views by a detailed analysis of Tieck's *William Lovell*, Friedrich von Schlegel's *Lucinde*, and Novalis's *Heinrich von Ofterdingen*. Professor Wood, of the Johns Hopkins University, failed to find in the paper a positive criticism, and thought that the writer's destructive criticism was based upon the weakest works of Tieck and

Schlegel. The speaker referred to Goethe's judgment upon Romanticism as set forth in the *Walpurgisnachtstraum* in *Faust*. Dr. Francke reminded his critic that his sketch presented only the first phase of Romanticism, and that the constructive stage would follow later.

Under the title "The Friar's Lantern," Professor Kittredge, of Harvard University, presented a brief oral communication. He effectually laid the ghost of Friar Rush, who by generations of commentators upon Milton's *L'Allegro* has been confused with the friar whose lantern is mentioned in that poem. The passage in Harsnet's *Declaration of Popish Impostures* which has been quoted for so long, can no longer be cited to interpret Milton's line. The passage in Harsnet's book was satirical, and was aimed at a real friar; Milton's friar had nothing to do with Friar Rush.

Professor Magill, of Swarthmore College, read a paper on "The New Method in Modern Language Study." The method described is largely inductive, is designed for students of college age, and has primarily in view the acquisition by the pupil of the ability to read, and of familiarity with literature. Practice in composition and in conversation is deferred until considerable progress has been made in reading the foreign language. Owing to the lateness of the hour, the discussion of this paper was deferred to the next session, the first paper of which was similar in character.

The second joint session was held on Friday morning, December 28; the presiding officer was Professor Wright, of Harvard University, President of the American Philological Association. In the program of eight papers the Modern Language Association had two representatives, Professor Collitz, of Bryn Mawr College, and Professor Sherman, of the University of Nebraska. Professor Collitz read a paper, soon to be published, on "Some Modern German Etymologies." Professor Sherman did not appear; his paper, on "Shakespeare's First Principles of Art," which had been anticipated with interest, will also be published at an early date.

At the second independent session, held on Friday afternoon, the Secretary of the Asso-

ciation read a communication by Professor Frederic Spencer, of the University of North Wales, "On a reform of methods in teaching the Modern Languages, together with an experiment in the teaching of German." Professor Spencer advocates the practice from the outset of writing a foreign language, and of speaking it in the class-room. Printed copies of practical exercises which he has used with success in his instruction were distributed among the audience. Professors Hart, (Cornell University), Super (Dickinson College), Blackwell (Randolph-Macon College), Elliott, and Magill, and Messrs. Babbitt (Columbia College) and Willner (Johns Hopkins University), took part in the discussion that followed. Emphasis was laid upon the fact that Professor Spencer's method has been tested by him only with a very small class, that it cannot successfully be employed in teaching large classes, and that methods of instruction must be varied to suit the age and capacity of pupils, the size of classes, and the particular end that the instructor has in view.

Professor A. Melville Bell, of Washington, D. C., President of the Phonetic Section, read a paper entitled "A Note on Syllabic Consonants." After defining the terms vowel, consonant, syllable, he showed that syllabic consonants (so-called) are not vowels, and that vowels are not necessary to the formation of syllables. Groups of words are the units of speech, and the secret of good reading is careful attention to phrasing. Professor Wheeler of Cornell University, was invited to open the discussion. He spoke of the debt of gratitude which all students of phonetics owe to Professor Bell, and said that the question presented by him was largely a matter of terms. We must distinguish in our use of terms between a physiological fact and a function. It is still an unsettled question whether the syllabic and the non-syllabic sounds of *l*, for example, differ from one another. Mr. John Hitt, Superintendent of the Volta Bureau, at Washington, gave a short account of the Bureau, which was founded by a son of Professor Bell for the diffusion of knowledge about the deaf, especially in regard to methods of teaching to the deaf the system of visible speech of which Professor Bell is the author.

Professor Magill called attention to the fact that Professor Bell is an example of his own teaching as to the importance of distinctness of utterance and of speaking by phrases.

Professor Lang, of Yale University, in a paper on "The Metres employed by the earliest Portuguese Lyric School," enumerated the various measures found in the principal collections of the lyric poetry of the twelfth and thirteenth centuries. Mr. de Haan advocated a comparative study of the lyric measures employed by early poets in Provence and in Spain; such a study of historical relations is a pre-requisite to a determination of the metres that have their origin in Portuguese poetry.

Dr. Gorrell, of Wake Forrest College, read a paper on "Indirect Discourse in Anglo-Saxon." His researches, which were based entirely upon prose writers, dealt chiefly with the sequence of tenses in modal clauses, with *þæt* and *hū* clauses, and traced the tendency toward the breaking down of subjunctival forms and the use of the direct form. The paper was discussed by Dr. Mather of Williams College.

The last paper of the session was "A parallel between the Middle English poem *Patience* and one of the pseudo-Tertullian poems," by Dr. O. F. Emerson, of Cornell University. He pointed out striking resemblances between *Patience*, which is mainly a paraphrase of the book of Jonah, and a Latin poem, *De Jona et Nineve*, formerly attributed to Tertullian. The most significant resemblance is in the description of the storm at sea, which, in both poems, is much fuller than the brief Biblical narrative; the similarity extends not only to details, but also to the order in which details are stated. Remarks upon the paper were made by Professor Bright.

The third joint session, the most largely attended of all, was the memorial meeting in honor of William Dwight Whitney: the presiding officer was President Gilman of the Johns Hopkins University, President of the American Oriental Society. Scholars from all parts of the country came in person to honor the memory of Professor Whitney; and letters were read from eminent scholars in England, France, Italy, and Germany. The principal address of the evening was by Professor Lan-

man of Harvard University, a friend and pupil of Professor Whitney, whose scholarly activity he divided into three important lines:—The elaboration of strictly technical works; the preparation of educational treatises; and the popular exposition of scientific questions. It is chiefly under the second division that there falls the work which connects Professor Whitney with the study of modern languages. The preparation of a German reader; of a German dictionary; of grammars, each in certain particulars the best of its kind, of the English, French, and German languages; the editorship of a series of German texts; an associate editorship of earlier editions of Webster's Dictionary; and the chief editorship of the Century Dictionary,—all show that though Whitney was pre-eminently a scholar in Sanskrit and in the science of language, yet he was also eminent as a worker in modern languages.

Professor March, of Lafayette College, a former president of the Modern Language Association, in a most genial and happy manner spoke of "Whitney's influence on the study of modern languages and on lexicography":—"Our great Sanskrit scholar was also an instructor in modern languages at Yale. He taught great classes of undergraduates French and German for thirty years." His grammars in English, German, and French "are perhaps the most widely used of their kind. All are remarkable books. . . . He had a profound system of language, its origin, and its development." Other addresses showed other sides of Whitney's scholarly activity, his influence upon his pupils, his character as a man. Listening to the varied testimony to the breadth and thoroughness of Whitney's scholarship, and to his nobility and dignity of character, one was reminded irresistibly of *The Grammarian's Funeral*, and of the triumphant chant of his pupils as they carried him to burial:—

"This is our master, famous, calm, and dead,
Borne on our shoulders.

.
Leave him—still loftier than the world suspects,
Living and dying."

The third independent session, held on Saturday morning, December 29, opened with

an interesting paper by Mr. Schofield, of Harvard University, on "Elizabeth Elstob: an Anglo-Saxon scholar nearly two centuries ago, with her *Plea for Learning in Women*." Mistress Elstob was not only a scholarly woman, an editor of Anglo-Saxon homilies, and the writer of the first Anglo-Saxon grammar in English. She was also a woman of admirable character, and the wielder of a very graceful pen. Her *Plea for Learning in Women* is most attractive in its arch and ready wit.

Dr. Marden, of the Johns Hopkins University, read a paper on "The Spanish Dialect of Mexico City." It was based upon personal observation of the spoken language, and is interesting for the light that it throws upon the pronunciation of Spanish at the time of the colonization of Mexico. The dialect shows a marked influence of the aboriginal language of Mexico. The paper was discussed by Professors Rennert (University of Pennsylvania), Price (Columbia College), and Garner (United States Naval Academy).

Professor Ross, of the Agricultural and Mechanical College, Alabama, followed with a paper on "Henry Timrod and his Poetry"; as an appropriate sub-title the writer suggested "a study of literary conditions in the South under the old régime." Timrod's poetic work, admirable but uneven, was sympathetically criticised; the poet was likened to Collins, in that he was in his age, but not of it. The discussion was opened by Dr. Tupper, of the University of Vermont, whose early associations were with Timrod's literary circle. He agreed with the writer of the paper in attributing to the unfavorable conditions of life on a southern plantation the failure of Timrod to express himself fully in verse. Professor Garnett, of the University of Virginia, denied that the conditions of life in the South are unfavorable to the production of poetry; while Professor Price affirmed that, so far as he had been able to observe, the conditions of life everywhere,—North, South, East, and West,—are unfavorable to the production of poetry. Professor Bright cited passages in the poetry of Timrod which bear traces of the influence of Wordsworth.

At this stage in the proceedings the com-

mittee appointed to suggest a place for holding the next convention was permitted to make its report. Professor Hart reported that the committee recommend that of the several invitations received by the Association, that extended by Yale University, to meet at New Haven, be accepted. The report was adopted.

The next paper was by Professor Hatfield, of the Northwestern University, on "The Poetry of Wilhelm Müller." He characterized Müller as a pioneer in the writing of lyric cycles, as the poet of the young, and as the poet of freedom. Professor Wood spoke of Wilhelm Müller as an exponent of the Volkslied, said that in spirit and character he belongs with the Swabian school, and compared him with Hölderlin and Waiblinger. The discussion was continued by Professors Hatfield and Greene and by Mr. Willner.

Dr. Menger, of the Johns Hopkins University, read a paper on "Early Romanticists in Italy." The seeds of Romanticism were sown by Madame de Staël. The evangelists of Italian Romanticism were Berchet and Visconti, who worked together upon the journal, *Il Conciliatore*: other leading spirits were Silvio Pellico and Alessandro Manzoni. Professor Cohn, of Columbia College, called attention to the fact that in France the romanticists were strong Roman Catholics, although the impulse to Romanticism came from Protestant countries, Germany and England.

The closing session was held on Saturday afternoon. In behalf of the committee upon Honorary Members, Professor Cohn reported the names of eight European scholars who were recommended for honorary membership. The recommendation of the committee was adopted by the Association.

On the part of the committee appointed to nominate officers for the following year, Professor Greene reported the names of the following members, who were unanimously elected to the positions for which they were nominated:—

President: James Morgan Hart, Cornell University.

Secretary: James W. Bright, Johns Hopkins University.

Treasurer: Marion D. Learned, Johns Hopkins University.

Executive Council:	{ Kuno Francke, Harvard University.
East.	{ Albert S. Cook, Yale University.
	{ Hugo A. Rennert, University of Pennsylvania.
West.	{ Albert H. Tolman, University of Chicago.
	{ George A. Hench, University of Michigan.
	{ John E. Matzke, Leland Stanford Jr. University.
South.	{ Alcée Fortier, Tulane University.
	{ J. B. Henneman, University of Tennessee.
	{ Charles H. Ross, Agricultural and Mechanical College, Alabama.
Phonetic Section:	{ President: A. Melville Bell, Washington, D. C.
	{ Secretary: George Hempl, University of Michigan.
Pedagogical Section:	{ President: Charles H. Grandgent, Cambridge, Mass.
	{ Secretary: James T. Hatfield, Northwestern University.
Editorial Committee:	{ A. Marshall Elliott, Johns Hopkins University.
	{ Henry A. Todd, Columbia College.

For the committee appointed to audit the Treasurer's report, Dr. Emerson reported that the accounts were found to be correct in every respect. The Secretary of the Phonetic Section, Mr. Grandgent, presented a report of the work that had been done by the section (chiefly by the secretary, it should be said) during the year. The report was approved, and the Association proceeded to the reading of papers.

Dr. Lewis, of Princeton University, presented a communication "On the development of inter-vocalic labials in the Romance languages." In discussing the paper, Dr. Menger commented upon the large number of classes made by the writer, eighty-five in all, of which only about thirty are common, and expressed doubts as to the possibility of obtaining exact results in so difficult a problem.

Dr. Rhoades, of Cornell University, followed with a paper entitled "Notes on Goethe's *Iphigenie*." He pointed out the connection between Goethe's *Iphigenie* and Friedrich Wilhelm Gotter's *Electra*, and showed that through the latter play, which is based upon

Voltaire's *Oreste*, elements which must otherwise be referred directly to a French source are sufficiently explained.

In a paper "On the Slavonic Languages" Mr. Herdler, of Princeton University, gave a summary of the results of investigation into the grouping and geographical distribution of Slavonic languages and dialects. The paper was discussed by Dr. Stollhofen, of Princeton University, and by Professor Collitz.

The last paper was on "Old French Equivalents of Latin substantives in *-cus*, *-gus*, *-vus*," by Dr. Jenkins, of Philadelphia. He showed that the difference in form between the Old French *feu* and *fuec*, *lieu* and *lucc*, is due to the difference in time of the loss of the final consonant in the nominative and accusative forms. Dr. Menger discussed the explanation given by Dr. Jenkins, and expressed the opinion that the contribution was a valuable one.

A paper by Professor Hohlfeld, of Vanderbilt University, "Contributions to a Bibliography of Racine," was read by title. This closed a series of sessions of unusual interest. The largest attendance at the independent meetings of the Associations was at the first and second sessions, nearly one hundred: some of the most interesting papers were read, and some of the most interesting discussions took place, at sessions that were less largely attended.

With the hospitality for which their city is proverbial, the citizens of Philadelphia generously fulfilled the promises made in their behalf by Dr. Furness. On each of the three days of the Convention luncheon was served in the University Library; and on Thursday evening a reception was held in the Library Building by the Provost and Trustees of the University. About two hundred ladies and gentlemen enjoyed a pleasant informal dinner at the Bullitt Building on Thursday evening. Gentlemen attending the Convention were invited to the monthly reception of the Historical Society of Pennsylvania on Thursday evening, and to a reception given by the Penn Club on Friday evening; and other courtesies were shown by private citizens to ladies attending the Convention. The University Club and the Art Club extended their privileges to all gen-

tlemen attending the convention, and the Acorn Club and the New Century Club showed similar courtesies to all ladies attending. The arrangements for entertaining so large a number of guests were admirably planned, and were most successfully carried out. A large share of the success, both in planning and in bringing to pass so intricate a program, is due to the untiring foresight and zeal of the Chairman of the Local Committee, Mr. Talcott Williams, of the Philadelphia *Press*. Before the Association adjourned, Professor Bright moved a vote of thanks, which was passed unanimously, "to the officers of the University of Pennsylvania, the local committee of arrangements, and all other organized personal service that has contributed to the entertainment of the Congress of American Philologists collectively, and to the entertainment of this Association in its separate meetings."

While the varied programs of the joint sessions were of interest, yet it cannot be said that the attendance was large, except at the Whitney memorial meeting. Classical and oriental scholars did not appear to listen closely to papers upon modern languages; nor did students of modern languages pay close attention to papers upon classical and oriental subjects. The opinion seemed to prevail, so far as the writer could discover, that simultaneous meetings are certainly enjoyable, chiefly because of the opportunities that they afford of meeting old friends; but that joint meetings are not particularly profitable, owing to the technicality of the papers presented to the various associations. This difficulty was avoided in part in the program of the joint session at which papers were read; and there was complete agreement as to the appropriateness of the joint meeting in honor of Professor Whitney. His work has been helpful to a larger number of linguistic scholars than that of any other philologist that this country has produced; and the Whitney memorial meeting brought together the largest number of men and women devoted to literary and linguistic study that has ever assembled in this country.

HERBERT EVELETH GREENE.

Johns Hopkins University.

THE ETHICS OF TRANSLATION.

DOUBTLESS the Italians are right in dubbing every translator a traitor. But just as certainly every language student will insist that there are degrees of treason, and that the crime of the translator who really understands his author, and conscientiously thinks his thoughts after him in another language, is not to be compared with that of the irresponsible literary fiend called the "dictionary translator." If there is one principle in literary ethics that needs emphasizing, it is this: That the man who, without a perfect command of both languages, ventures to publish a translation, commits an unpardonable sin, for which there is no expiation. For he is sure to give more or less permanent form to a mere travesty on the ideas and the language of his original, and to defraud, without recourse, both the foreign author and the public.

This principle has been flagrantly violated in a translation just published, of Gustav Freytag's *Technik des Dramas*.^{*} It is doubly unfortunate that this work should have fallen into the hands of the Philistines, not only because of its excellence, but also because a good reproduction would be of very great value to almost every student of dramatic literature.

The present translation certainly does not offer a satisfactory reproduction; in fact, it is a classic example of "dictionary translation," full of absurd misconceptions and atrocious errors, and couched in abominable English.

A few characteristic mistranslations (only the briefest) will make evident the very limited acquaintance of the translator with the language of the original. *Der herzogliche Dragoner-Major Blasius* is translated as "Duke Blasius"; *Gesetze des Schaffens* as "laws of creation"; also as "also"; *Schauspielkunst* as "scenic art"; *bestimmtes Zeitmass* as "chosen movement"; *neuere Bühne* as "later stage," and *wir Neueren* as "we later ones"; *gewandte Dialektik* as "clever dialect"; *öffentliche Reden* as "freedom of speech"; *Romanen* as "Romans"; *ehrbar* as "reverential"; *traulich* as "credulously";

^{*}Freytag's *Technique of the Drama*, translated by Elias J. MacEwan. Chicago: S. C. Griggs & Co.